

## Request for information from ISASC member

4 messages

**Michael Foster** [REDACTED]  
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Sat, Jan 23, 2010 at 8:47 AM

Eric,

My name is Michael S. Foster, I am a new member of the ISASC and specialize in Sovereign and coin rockers and balances. I am writing a new Book/Reference Manual on 'Sovereigns Balances 2 – Standard and Non-standard Rockers and Crowns' with Diana Crawforth-Hitchens as my editor. I have two articles on sovereign rockers published in the 2009 Equilibrium Issues 3&4 and others accepted by Jan Berning for the 2010 Equilibrium.

I am writing to make contact as Diana believes you may have or know who has a sovereign rocker by "Hulston & Lucas" that was reported to Michael Crawforth to be in the George Mallis collection. Diana has indicated that George died several years ago, and that she has no records of what happened to his collection, but felt it might have been left to you or that you might know of its whereabouts?

I am trying to get photos of the unique rockers listed by Michael to include my reference book. I have over 160 sovereign and coin rockers in my personal collection, including a number of unique 'Named' rockers and I am in the process of completing Collection Catalogues on Michael and Diana Crawforth's and Noel and Janet Scarratt's sovereign rocker collections for posterity. I also have photos in my database from the collections of Norman Biggs, Graham Weeks, and Wolfgang Schilde.

I would be pleased to know more about your coin scales and learn what happened to some of George's collection, if you can help?

Any assistance would be appreciated and acknowledged in the Book.

Thanks in advance,

Michael S. Foster

[REDACTED]  
ericnumis@aol.com <ericnumis@aol.com>

Sun, Jan 24, 2010 at 6:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Foster:

I am always glad to try to assist a fellow researcher and writer. I was privileged to know Michael and my wife and I visited him and Diana in England long ago. He fixed overnight after I went to sleep some of the damaged English coin scales I had bought in London and brought with me.

I am a numismatist and run a money museum in St. Louis. Included in the collection are a large group of American coin counterfeit detector mechanisms and coins scales. I wrote a book with A. George Mallis on the subject. I have a paucity of

English rockers but have a large collection of English coin pub tills.  
Mallis was a good friend of mine but was somewhat secretive. When he and his wife became sick he had to spend a lot of money and ran out of it. He lived in Springfield, Massachusetts. She died a few days before he did. He provided in his will that I could buy American items in his collection at prices he had set. I was told it was not clear about some of the prices. He owed me a substantial amount of money for half the cost of printing our book. I never received anything. His collection was then sold at auction in Boston by a firm specializing in technical items. My guess is about 1990 - 91, I was outbid on the American items I wanted. There were a group of English pieces in the printed catalog. Jerome Katz, a vice president of ISCS, was there I think and he could be helpful.  
Good luck in your work and I hope I have been a trifle helpful  
Eric P. Newman 6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis MO 63105  
[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 8:01 AM

Michael Foster [REDACTED]

To: ericnumis@aol.com

Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Eric,

Thank you for the quick response and the information. I will do some more investigating. I am already in touch with Jerome Katz and have sent him a detailed list of the sovereign rockers that I am searching for. I have included the list below and copied Jerome on this email to perhaps stir his memory. The HULSTON & LUCAS is the rocker that Diana believes George Mallis once owned. Your information may help if Jerome has a copy of the auction catalog or can provide additional information?

I too am a numismatist but the coins that I collect have gotten too dear for my pocket book these days. My collections include Roman Imperial Silver Denarii and Antoninianii (~150), but my passion was Gallo-Belgic and British Celtic gold and silver (~70-80) which I started collecting after I bought Robert Van Arsdell's book "Celtic Coinage of Britain" at Spink in London, when they first released it around 1990. I am fortunate enough to have a Celtic Coin Index Private Collection letter 'M' which is the result of submitting my coins in the early days of the project.

### Sovereign Balance List

" I am specifically searching for sovereign balances with the following names from Michael Crawford's Booklet on Sovereign Balances. I have been unable to find examples of the following to obtain photographs, even with Diana Crawford (now Hitchins) assistance on who originally reported or owned the rockers. My comments are in ***bold and italic*** below.

### MARK ON BALANCE

BASTICK, LONDON – Richard Bastick, scale-maker, 2 Holywell Row, Worship St, London, 1840-50 - ***no record of owner.***

B.C. – possibly Bennett Cattle - ***no record of owner or even that a 'B.C.' labelled rocker ever existed.***

DOLLO – Unknown - ***no record of owner.***

GAIMES (name on box) – Gaimes, 53 St. Paul's Churchyard, London – ***probably just a retailer of Thomas Simmons made rockers - no record of owner.***

HULSTON & LUCAS – Unknown – ***ex George Mallis Collection – don't know what happened to it after George died.***

NEILL – Robert Neill, Jeweller, silversmith, optician, nautical instrument-maker, globe and chart seller, Belfast, Ireland. - ***ex Gerry Chellingworth collection – no record of buyer.***

PICKETT – John Pickett, Clock maker and whitesmith, High St, Marlborough, 1780-1847 – ***ex Japp Visser - sold to an Unrecorded American collector.***

HENRY PIDDUCK & SONS – Unknown, - ***no record of owner.***

J. STONE, 18 WARWICK ST., LONDON – Unknown - ***no record of owner.***

WHEELAM – Unknown in Sheppard & Musham's book - ***no record of owner.***

WYTON – George Wyton, Brass founder, 12 Court, Legge St, Birmingham, 1842-50 – ***no record of owner.”***

Thanks again,

Mike Foster

---

**From:** ericnumis@aol.com [mailto:[ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com)]

**Sent:** January 24, 2010 6:04 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Request for information from ISASC member

[Quoted text hidden]

---

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 2:49 PM

**EricNumis@aol.com <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)>**

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mike:

I have no further answer to your further inquiries other than I remember that the Mallis auction was in a little town very near Boston. One of the reasons I was unable to buy the American pieces I needed from the Mallis estate is that the executors wanted me to buy everything and not select. Mallis would have been very disappointed to have had this take place. The proceeds of his estate went to a not for profit organization. I do not know where you are from and will have to search the club's records to find out. Tell me by Email.

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]